

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

I thought in this month of the REFORMATION I might like to give you some of Martin Luthers' own words from Luthers Works Volume 7 Page 8. Here Martin Luther is addressing CHRIST'S PASSION, CHRIST'S SACRIFICE for us: 4. They contemplate Christ's passion aright who view it with a terror-stricken heart and a despairing conscience. This terror must be felt as you witness the stern wrath and the unchanging earnestness with which God looks upon sin and sinners, so much so that he was unwilling to release sinners even for his only and dearest Son without his payment of the severest penalty for them. Thus he says in Isaiah 53[:8], "I have chastised him for the transgressions of my people." If the dearest child is punished thus, what will be the fate of sinners? It must be an inexpressible and unbearable earnestness that forces such a great and infinite person to suffer and die to appease it. And if you seriously consider that it is God's very own Son, the eternal wisdom of the Father, who suffers, you will be terrified indeed. The more you think about it, the more intensely will you be frightened.

5. You must get this thought through your head and not doubt that you are the one who is torturing Christ thus, for your sins have surely wrought this. In Acts 2[:36-37] St. Peter frightened the Jews like a peal of thunder when he said to all of them, "You crucified him." Consequently three thousand alarmed and terrified Jews asked the apostles on that one day, "O dear brethren, what shall we do now?" Therefore, when you see the nails piercing Christ's hands, you can be certain that it is your work. When you behold his crown of thorns, you may rest assured that these are your evil thoughts, etc.

For every nail that pierces Christ, more than one hundred thousand should in justice pierce you, yes, they should prick you forever and ever more painfully! When Christ is tortured by nails penetrating his hands and feet, you should eternally suffer the pain they inflict and the pain of even more cruel nails, which will in truth be the lot of those who do not avail themselves of Christ's passion. This earnest mirror, Christ, will not lie or trifle, and whatever it points out will come to pass in full measure. This is the end of Luther's writing for this newsletter. Martin Luther did many great things in order to teach and preach the LAW and the GOSPEL and to teach the people that

**the only writing that should be the foundation of the Church is the HOLY BIBLE! Martin expounded on the truths of the Holy Scriptures so that people could come to know their sinfulness and the one and only Begotten Son of GOD, JESUS CHRIST, and what He did for them, for us. This passion of Christ, as depicted in the movie, "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST" some have said is too graphic, too hard to look at or think about. Martin Luther makes it clear that we must look at CHRIST'S passion and understand as bad as JESUS suffered, we deserve to suffer much more because of our sinfulness. Martin says we should never stop looking at this passion and see that we are the ones, through our sins, who are responsible for the suffering of JESUS. IF we come to see this, and believe it. only then can we truly strive to be faithful, to be CHRISTIAN. LUTHER also makes it clear, that the punishment that he describes is what those without faith will experience. If this reading from Luther's writings frightens you, this is a good thing. It means that you are understanding what you, and I, have done to JESUS and what JESUS has done for you and I. Every time we partake of the LORDS SUPPER we must reflect on the Passion of the Christ, our guilt and our forgiveness. The grace and love of our TRIUNE GOD is very abundant, and we have a great deal to be thankful for. SO, remember the passion of the Christ and come to His table freely to receive the forgiveness he so graciously suffered for. Reformation for us begins with the Passion of Christ, His death and his resurrection. Come partake of His body and blood and the gracious forgiveness from our GOD.**

**Gods  
blessings**

**Pastor John**